

## Message Text

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63

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 ADP-00 SCI-06 HEW-08 AID-20

NSF-04 OIC-04 RSR-01 /190 W  
----- 067725

R 140020 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0758

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2161

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO KS KN

SUBJ: 26 TH WHA: NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION FOR WHO MEMBERSHIP

REF: A) STATE 066738; B) STATE 065086

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL EMBOFF SAW ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
MICHAEL COOK APRIL 13 AND MADE PRESENTATION ALONG LINES  
REF B. BEFORE SEEING COOK, EMBOFF TALKED WITH COUNSELLOR OF  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA EMBASSY IN CANBERRA, RO MYUNG GONG, AND  
REPEATED ARGUMENTS GIVEN REF B. GONG, SAID SOUTH KOREAN  
AMBASSADOR  
MIN HAD SEEN SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WALLER APRIL 12 ON  
SAME SUBJECT. ACCORDING TO GONG, AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN TOLD BY  
WALLER THAT SUBJECT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM  
BUT THAT DECISION OF WHETHER TO SUPPORT DELAY IN CONSIDERATION OF  
NORTH KOREA' S APPLICATION FOR WHO MEMBERSHIP AT WHA MEETING  
HAD NOT BEEN MADE. GONG INDICATED AMBASSADOR HAD NOT BEEN ABLE  
TO GET ANY INDICATION OF WHAT RECOMMENDATION FDS HAD  
MADE TO PRIME MINISTER. GONG SAID HE HIMSELF HAS BEEN TO  
SEE COOK THREE TIMES IN PAST TEN DAYS ON MATTER.

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2. COOK GAVE EMBOFF SAME RESPONSE GIVEN SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR STATED ABOVE. WHEN ASKED IF DECISION WOULD BE MADE SOON, COOK SAID PM WAS DUE TO LEAVE ON OVERSEAS TRIP APRIL 17 AND THAT COOK EXPECTS DECISION WILL BE MADE BEFORE PM'S DEPARTURE. COOK SAID GOA HAD FOUR POSSIBLE CHOICES; TO BE FOR, TO BE AGAINST, TO ABSTAIN, OR TO "LOOK ONESELF UP IN THE BATHROOM WHEN THE VOTE IS TAKEN". HE THEORIZED THAT TO DELAY CONSIDERATION OF NORTH KOREA'S APPLICATION COULD ONLY RESULT IN FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF MATTER. HE THEN SAID THAT GOA WAS IN PROCESS DETERMINING ITS POSITION ON KOREAN ITEM IN UNGA AND ON UNCURK WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY END OF APRIL WHEN COOK IS DUE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO HEAD MISSION OVERSEAS. WHEN EMBOFF EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT GOA POSITION WAS TO BE DETERMINED SOME MONTHS IN ADVANCE UNGA, COOK SAID HIS OFFICE HAD BEEN WORKING ON QUESTIONS FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AND THAT HE WISHED TO WRAP SUBJECT UP BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

3. WITH REGARD TO WHA MATTER, COOK SAID IN COURSE CONVERSATION THAT IN ADDITION TO APPROACH MADE IN WAHSINGTON, HE UNDERSTOOD BOTH HMG AND JAPANESE WERE APPARENTLY WILLING TO APPROACH OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORT OF HAVING MATTER POSTPONED AT WHA MEETING. COOK STATED ONCE GOA DECISION IS MADE, USG WILL BE INFORMED OF POSITION.

4. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF GOA'S MOVEMENT TO OPEN CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT, AND COOK'S THEORETICAL COMMENT IN PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE, EMBOFF CAME AWAY FROM MEETING WITH IMPRESSION THAT DFA WAS RECOMMENDING TO PRIME MINISTER THAT GOA SUPPORT APPLICATION OF NORTH KOREA AT WHA MEETING. REASON FOR HESITANCY IN TELLING US PROBABLY STEMS FROM INTERNAL GOA NEED TO HAVE PM'S IMPRIMATUR BEFORE TELLING OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS, AND TO SOME DOUBT THAT PM WILL ACCEPT DFA RECOMMENDATION WITHOUT CHANGE. AT NO TIME DURING CONVERSATION DID COOK INDICATE ANY READINESS TO TELL SOUTH KOREANS OF GOA DECISION ONCE IT IS MADE ALTHOUGH DIRECT QUESTION DID NOT ARISE. IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS, COOK HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE DISENCHANTMENT WITH SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND AUSTRALIA'S "RUBBER-STAMP" PARTICIPATION IN UNCURK.  
RICE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**To:** IO  
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO LONDON  
SEOUL  
TOKYO  
WELLINGTON  
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